

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission**  
**Quarterly Meeting – November 17-19, 2004**  
**Helgeson Hotel, 125 Johnson Avenue**  
**Orofino, Idaho**

*Note: Times on the agenda are approximate and subject to change.*

**November 17, 2004**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1:00 pm | Commission Workshop                                       |
| 4:30 pm | Commission Working Dinner, Ponderosa Restaurant           |
| 7:00 pm | Public Hearing, Ponderosa Restaurant, 220 Michigan Avenue |

**November 18, 2004**

- |          |     |  |
|----------|-----|--|
| 8:00 am  | 1.  | Opening Comments<br>Nancy Hadley, Commission Chair   |
| 8:05 am  | 2.  | Agenda Changes<br>Nancy Hadley, Commission Chair   |
| 8:10 am  | 3.  | Review of Public Comment<br>Nancy Hadley, Commission Chair   |
| 8:15 am  | 4.  | Director's Report<br>Steven Huffaker, Director   |
| 8:35 am  | 5.  | Commission Reports<br>Commissioners  |
| 8:55 am  | 6.  | Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair<br>Chair Hadley  |
| 9:05 am  | 7.  | Consent Calendar (Action)<br>a. Minutes<br>b. Financial Report   |
| 9:15 am  | 8.  | Fleet Management Progress Report<br>Steve Barton, Assistant to the Director  |
| 9:35 am  | 9.  | ABC and GTECH Updates<br>Jim Lau, Chief, Bureau of Administration  |
| 10:00 am |     | Break  |
| 10:20 am | 10. | Rules (Action)<br>a. Non-resident deer and elk tag quotas<br>b. Non-resident deer and elk tag outfitter set-aside<br>Jim Lau |

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|----------|-----|---|
| 10:40 am | 11. | Ratification of Rules Adopted by the Commission (Action)<br>Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General                          |
| 10:45 am | 12. | Legislative Proposals<br>Steve Barton   |
| 11:05 am | 13. | Non-biological Rule Issue Scoping<br>Brad Compton, Wildlife Game Manager  |
| 11:25 am | 14. | Access Yes! Marketing Plan and Lottery Application Sales (Action)<br>Brad Compton   |
| 11:45 am | 15. | Shikar Safari Officer of the Year Award<br>Mr. Bob Hitchcock, Shikar-Safari Club International<br>Jon Heggen, Enforcement Chief |
| 12:00 pm |     | Lunch   |
| 1:30 pm  | 16. | Presentation to Potlatch<br>Chair Hadley and Steven Huffaker  |
| 1:45 pm  | 17. | Senator Crapo's Elk Summit<br>Cal Groen, Regional Supervisor  |
| 2:15 pm  | 18. | White-Tailed Deer Plan (Action)<br>Brad Compton   |
| 3:15 pm  |     | Break   |
| 3:35 pm  | 19. | Mule Deer Initiative Update<br>Brad Compton and Shane King, Wildlife Biologist  |
| 3:55 pm  | 20. | Disabled Hunter Opportunities<br>Steve Barton   |
| 4:15 pm  | 21. | Executive Session, IC 67-2345(1) (b) and (f)  |
| 5:00 pm  |     | Recess  |

**November 19, 2004**

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|----------|-----|---|
| 8:00 am  | 22. | Strategic Plan (Action)<br>Tracey Trent, Chief, Bureau of Natural Resources |
| 9:00 am  | 23. | Trophy Species Status Report<br>Dale Toweill, Wildlife Program Coordinator  |
| 9:20 am  | 24. | Hunter Orange<br>Roger Fuhrman, Chief, Bureau of Communications             |
| 9:40 am  | 25. | Appointment of Commission Representatives to WAFWA, PSMFC, IFWF<br>(Action) |
| 10:20 am |     | Break   |

- 10:40 am      26.    Region 2 Nongame Program  
                     Joel Sauder, Nongame Biologist
- 10:55 am      27.    Review of Mainstem Biological Opinion  
                     Sharon Kiefer, Anadromous Fish Manager
- Adjourn

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2004

**Agenda Item No.** 7b

**Agenda Item:** Financial Report

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Jim Lau, Chief, Bureau of Administration

**Background:**

Update the Commission on the Financial Status of the Department

**Policy issues:**

None

**Public Involvement Process:**

None

**Justification:**

None

**Action Requested:**

None

**Staff Recommendations:**

None

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2004

**Agenda Item No.** 8

**Agenda Item:** Fleet Management Progress Report

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Steve Barton

**Background:**

The Department received authorization and funding from the Commission in October 2000 by Commission Order 00-40 to implement Fleet Management to address equipment problems that were consuming an undue amount of management and staff time and effort. It was widely recognized that equipment condition was a significant obstacle to accomplishing IDFG resource management goals.

The goals of Fleet Management are to provide safe equipment to employees, assure equipment is properly maintained, optimize equipment replacement on a defined schedule, reduce overall operational and replacement costs, maximize equipment repairs using the manufacturer's warranty, and reduce overall fleet size by using a life-cycle costing approach.

The Department is currently 2 years into an 8-year phased transition. Thus far, the system has proven successful in reducing the number of vehicles overall. Auction values and fleet efficiency have increased while maintenance costs have decreased. Overall, the Department has met expectations

with the new fleet system and is in the process of switching over most motorized vehicles to the internal fleet system, which includes fixed leasing cost, and per mile or per hour variable cost.

**Policy issues:**

None

**Public Involvement Process:**

None

**Justification:**

Portions of this progress report will be included in the Department's presentation to JFAC in January 2005.

**Action Requested:**

None -- information only.

**Staff Recommendations:**

None -- information only.

**Meeting Date:** November 12, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 9**

**Agenda Item:** ABC and GTECH Updates

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Jim Lau, Chief, Bureau of Administration

**Background:**

Information only update related to Department's ongoing computer systems projects. Status report on Activity Based Costing modifications. Update on resolutions to initial problems encountered during IWILD roll-out earlier this year.

**Policy issues:**

None

**Public Involvement Process:**

N/A

**Justification:**

N/A

**Action Requested:**

None

**Staff Recommendations:**

None

AGENDA ITEM: 10

**TO ADOPT AS TEMPORARY RULES FOR THE YEAR 2005, RULES  
GOVERNING LICENSING, IDAPA 13.01, CHAPTER 04, RULE 500,  
NONRESIDENT DEER AND ELK TAG OUTFITTER SETASIDE AND RULE 600 ,  
NONRESIDENT DEER AND ELK TAG QUOTAS:**

TAG TYPE	NON-OUTFITTED	OUTFITTED	TOTAL
Regular Deer	10,500	1,900	12,400
Southeast Deer	1,115	85	1,200
Total Deer	12,015	1,995	14,000
Total Elk (All Zones)	10,415	2,400	12,815

**THE TEMPORARY RULES WILL BE IN EFFECT UNTIL APPROVED BY THE  
LEGISLATURE AS PERMANENT RULES.**

APPROVED BY:    DATE:

Originating Bureau \_\_\_\_\_

Legal \_\_\_\_\_

Admin/Budget Analyst \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting Date: November 18, 2004****Agenda Item No. 10****Agenda Item:** Nonresident deer and elk tag set-a-side quotas**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Jim Lau, Chief  
Bureau of Administration

**Background:**

IDFG annually sets a side deer and elk tags that are reserved for sale to nonresidents.

**Policy issues:**

IDAPA rules 13.01.04.600.01

**Public Involvement Process:**

N\A

**Justification:**

Set quota on nonresident deer and elk tags and set-a-side outfitted nonresident deer and elk tag quotas.

**Action Requested:**

Commission approval of nonresident deer and elk tags and set-a-side outfitted nonresident deer and elk tag quotas.

**Staff Recommendations:**

Approve quotas as suggested.

**Meeting Date: November 17-19, 2004**

**Agenda Item No. 11**

**Agenda Item:** Ratification of Rules

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** W. Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General

**Background:**

This is an annual part of the rulemaking process. Informally, we have been referring to this step as 'Rules Ratification.' The Commission's Proposed Rules need to be adopted as **Pending Rules**. The Pending Rules will be reviewed and acted on by the Legislature at its next session.

**Policy issues:**

None.

**Public Involvement Process:**

Public involvement was completed during previous steps in the rulemaking process; including open houses, a public hearing and action at a previous Commission meeting, publication in the Administrative Bulletin, and a period for written public comment.

**Justification:**

This is a required step in the rulemaking process under the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act.

**Action Requested:**

I request that the Commission adopt the Proposed Rules as **Pending Rules**.

The Proposed Rule Dockets that require action are:

- 1) 13-0102-0401 Public Safety (Hunter Education)
- 2) 13-0104-0401 Licensing
- 3) 13-0106-0401 Classification and Protection of Wildlife
- 4) 13-0107-0401 Upland Game Animals
- 5) 13-0108-0401 Big Game
- 6) 13-0109-0401 Game Birds
- 7) 13-0111-0401 Fish
- 8) 13-0112-0401 Commercial Fishing
- 9) 13-0113-0401 Migratory Birds (American Crows)
- 10) 13-0114-0401 Falconry
- 11) 13-0116-0401 Trapping
- 12) 13-0119-0401 Operating, Discontinuing, and Suspending Vendors

**Staff Recommendations:**

I recommend this action.

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 12**

**Agenda Item:** Legislative Proposals

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Steve Barton

**Background:**

An overview of proposed legislation for the next session was provided to the Commission at the July 8-9, 2004 meeting. Six proposals were reviewed. There was consensus from the Commission to move forward.

Draft legislation has been sent to Legislative Services. A letter was also sent to the Governor indicating the Commission's intent to continue to gather input and determine support for the idea of giving the Commission authority to set fees by rule. The fee increase bill may be revised based on additional feedback and meetings with legislators and other constituents.

**Policy issues:**

**Public Involvement Process:**

Since the July meeting, the Director, Department staff, and Commissioners have met with constituents including legislators, sportsmen and women, and other interested parties to gather input and feedback on the fee adjustment proposal and to garner / determine support for the bill.

An Op Ed by the Director regarding the fee increase proposal was placed in print media around the state, and the Director has met with media in several regions over the last two months in order to educate the public regarding the proposal.

**Justification:**



**Action Requested:**

None.

**Staff Recommendations:**

Revisions to the fee adjustment bill, based on Commission discussion and constituent input, will be provided to Legislative Services and the Governor's office.

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 13**

**Agenda Item:** Non-Biological Rule Issue Scoping

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Brad Compton

**Background:**

In January 2005, the Commission will consider changes to nonbiological rules for big game. Generally, rules not directly related to bag and possession limits and hunting seasons are considered nonbiological. The Department has identified a couple of issues that may result in proposed changes, including:

**Muzzleloader Technology**

The Idaho Muzzleloader Association and some individual muzzleloader hunters have requested that conical bullets, without sabots, be legal in traditional muzzleloader hunts. The recommendation stems from research that heavier bullets have deeper penetration and better wound-channels, providing for more humane kills. Trajectory between round balls and conical bullets in traditional muzzleloading firearms is similar.

**Outfitter Allocated Controlled Hunts**

In 2000, the Commission established Outfitter Allocated Controlled hunts for deer and elk. Successful applicants must hunt with an outfitter licensed within the controlled hunt area. Problems have arisen including: 1) successful applicants not being able to book with an outfitter, and 2) confusion among applicants as to which outfitters they could book with. The Department, working with the Outfitters & Guides Licensing Board, recommends that applicants for outfitter allocated hunts have a written agreement with an outfitter prior to submitting an application.

**Policy issues:****Muzzleloader Technology**

Commission intent of traditional muzzleloader seasons was to maintain the primitive nature of the weapon and the hunt. Use of conical bullets, without sabots, in traditional muzzleloader hunts is consistent with this intent.

**Outfitter Allocated Controlled Hunts**

Requiring a written agreement with an outfitter before applying for an Outfitter Allocated Controlled Hunt is consistent with existing Idaho statutes and Commission intent.

**Public Involvement Process:**

The Department will solicit input from affected stakeholders prior to the January Commission meeting.

**Justification:**

Stakeholders have requested the Department and Commission consider changes to traditional muzzleloader restrictions and application procedures for outfitter allocated hunts.

**Action Requested:**

None. Information purposes only.

**Staff Recommendations:**

Solicit stakeholder input on the proposals.

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 14**

**Agenda Item:** Access Yes! Marketing Plan

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Brad Compton

**Background:**

In 2004, the Commission adopted a special controlled hunt program to partially fund the Department's *Access Yes!* program. In total, 30 Super Tags (10 elk, 10 deer, 10 pronghorn antelope, and 2 moose) and 2 Super Slams (combination of elk, deer, pronghorn, and moose tags) were offered during 2 application periods in 2004. The initial offering raised a total of \$162,319.50.

The Fish & Game Advisory Committee recommends, and the Department concurs, that the special controlled hunt program be continued and that additional marketing strategies be implemented to maximize income for *Access Yes!*

Department staff met with marketing experts from Idaho Lottery and Department of Agriculture to identify strategies to improve attractiveness of the special controlled hunt program. Based on this input, the Department has developed a marketing strategy.

**Policy issues:**

Three policy issues exist: 1) releasing 40 "Super Hunt" tags (12 elk, 12 deer, 12 pronghorn antelope, 4 moose), 2) use of special controlled hunt funds for marketing purposes, and 3) reducing application fees.

**Public Involvement Process:**

**The public was extensively involved in development and adoption of the 2004 special controlled hunt program. Support of and demand for *Access Yes!* continues to grow.**

**Justification:**

The special controlled hunt rules adopted by the Commission were only valid for 2004. Commission action is required to continue the special controlled hunt program to provide funding for *Access Yes!*

**Action Requested:**

Adopt special controlled hunt rules and direct the Department to use a small percentage of funds generated from the special controlled hunt program for marketing purposes.

**Staff Recommendations:****Special Controlled Hunt Rules:****1<sup>st</sup> Drawing:**

8 each of elk, deer, pronghorn antelope "Super Hunt" tags

1 moose "Super Hunt" tag

1 "Super Hunt Combo" (including 1 each of elk, deer, pronghorn antelope, moose)

Application period Aug 11 to May 31

Applications received by May 31

Drawing Jun 15 [or Monday closest to]

**2<sup>nd</sup> Drawing:**

2 each of elk, deer, pronghorn antelope "Super Hunt" tags

1 moose "Super Hunt" tag

1 "Super Hunt Combo" (including 1 each of elk, deer, pronghorn antelope, moose)

Application period Jun 1 to Aug 10

Applications received by Aug 10

Drawing Aug 15 [or Monday closest to]

- - continued - -

**Application Fees:**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
1 "Super Hunt"	\$6.50	\$4.95
6 "Super Hunt"	\$26.50	\$19.95
13 "Super Hunt"	\$51.50	\$49.95
1 "Super Hunt Combo"	\$21.50	\$19.95
6 "Super Hunt Combo"	\$101.50	\$99.95
13 "Super Hunt Combo"	\$201.50	\$199.95

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 15**

**Agenda Item:** Shikar-Safari Club International Officer of the  
year Award

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Jon Heggen

**Background:**

For many years, Shikar-Safari Club International has honored an outstanding "Wildlife Officer of the Year" for each of the 50 states. Our own Director Huffaker is a past recipient of this award in a previous life. The award, selected by the agency, recognizes an officer who has shown exemplary performance of his/her duties in the protection of wildlife, enforcement of game laws, and implementation of conservation programs.

It is my privilege to introduce Mr. Bob Hitchcock, President of the Shikar-Safari Club International, who will present SCO Mark Rhodes with the 2004 Shikar-Safari Club International Idaho Fish and Game Officer of the Year Award.

**Policy issues:**

NA

**Public Involvement Process:**

NA

**Justification:**

Here are some excerpts from Mark Rhodes' nomination letter:

Each year, Shikar-Safari Club International offers the prestigious award for Wildlife Officer of the Year. It is an award each officer covets and strives to achieve. It is a pleasure to continue our partnership and honor an outstanding Wildlife Officer for Idaho.

It is my pleasure to nominate Senior Conservation Mark Rhodes for the 2003 Shikar-Safari Wildlife Officer of the year. Mark began his wildlife conservation enforcement career in 1996. In that time, he has demonstrated his ability as the ideal Conservation Officer, well beyond his years.

Mark has a commitment to excellence that precedes everything he does. Mark goes beyond the necessary minimums and excels in his duties as a Conservation Officer. He is diligent in his pursuit of the wildlife violator, maintaining an ever-vigilant presence. In addition to his normal duties, Mark is a POST certified trainer and a Field Training Officer. Mark takes the extra time and effort to thoroughly review, document, and share his knowledge and wisdom to new recruits and veteran officers alike. One of Mark's supervisors says, "he is the consummate officer, confident, but not arrogant, thorough, but expeditious, very business like, yet totally approachable."

Mark demonstrates the well-rounded ability every officer should be. He writes a bi-monthly newspaper column for the *Clearwater Tribune* entitled "On the Game Trail" and is active in the hunter education program. The Regional Conservation Educator says, Mark "is also very effective in working with the public, especially our hunter education instructors. Several instructors have commented on his dependability and sincere desire to instill proper safety and ethical values into our hunting youth. His polite manner, communication skills, flexibility, and personality naturally

make him a favorite. More than one has mentioned that Mark is a very positive person, who imparts the same attitude to the people he works with and for. He's an exemplary individual and IDFG employee."

Mark cares about the resources he is entrusted to protect. The regional fisheries and wildlife managers both applaud Mark for his dedication and contributions to the fish and wildlife programs of the Clearwater region. Mark's insights into his patrol area and his carefully thought out recommendations and contributions to fish and wildlife management are a very welcome asset in the region.

Mark's supervisor sums up his attributes by stating, "Mark is the quintessential Conservation Officer, his contributions to the Department and the public he serves is immeasurable."

I appreciate your consideration of this nomination and your continued support of Idaho Fish and Game programs.

**Action Requested:**

Applause

**Staff Recommendations:**

**Meeting Date:** November 2, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 16**

**Agenda Item:** Presentation to Potlatch

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Mark Taylor

**Background:**

The Potlatch Corporation has had a long history of allowing unlimited hunting and fishing public access to their lands in northern Idaho by corporate policy. This past year, working in concert with the Department's Access Yes! program, Potlatch guaranteed that access on nearly 19,000 acres in the Mica Creek drainage on the St. Joe River.

Potlatch Corporation, with funding from the Forest Legacy program and private donations raised by the Trust For Public Land, enrolled their Mica Creek lands in a conservation easement. The Department's Access Yes! funding contributed to this effort to conserve north Idaho timberlands and preserve the right of hunting and fishing access for all future generations.

**Policy issues:**

None

**Public Involvement Process:**

None

**Justification:**

The privilege to hunt and fish is only worth something if people have a place to do so. Idaho hunters and anglers appreciate Potlatch's contribution to the pursuit of their sport. As a group, it is very difficult for Idaho Sportsmen and Sportswomen to say "Thank You."

**Action Requested:**

Therefore, on behalf of Idaho's sporting public, as well as the Fish and Game Department, and the Fish and Game Commission, please accept this framed print as a token of our

appreciation for your contribution to Idaho's rich hunting and fishing heritage. It reflects a scene that many northern Idaho hunters have enjoyed on your lands.

We enjoyed working with you on this project, and are looking forward to working with you in the years to come.

**Staff Recommendations:**

None

**Meeting Date:** November 17-19, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 17**

**Agenda Item:** Senator Crapo's Elk Summit

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Cal Groen, Jay Crenshaw, Jerome Hanson

**Background:**

As a result of the Elk Summit organized by Senator Crapo that convened in Lewiston on January 25, 2003, an Elk Collaborative group was formed. Its goal was to provide a broad-based forum to develop consensus-based recommendations to recover elk in the Clearwater Basin backcountry. Delegates represented 15 stakeholder organizations (Back Country Horsemen, Wolf Education & Research Center, Public Land Access Year Around, The Wilderness Society, Clearwater Research Coalition, Great Burn Study Group, Clearwater Elk Recovery Team, Nez Perce Tribe, Three Rivers Timber, Inc., Idaho Outfitters & Guides, Idaho Conservation League, Trout Unlimited, Concerned Sportsmen of Idaho, Clearwater County Commissioners, Avery Area Property Owners Association). Representatives from Idaho Department of Fish and Game participated in these meetings as non-voting technical advisors, as did representatives from the U.S. Forest Service. Fifty-eight consensus recommendations were developed during 15 meetings that were held between April 2003 and April 2004.

**Policy issues:**

The Senator Crapo Elk Summit and the subsequent Elk Collaborative were born out of concerns with the status of elk populations in the Clearwater Region, particularly in the Lolo (Units 10 & 12) and Selway (Units 16A, 17, 19, & 20) zones. Elk numbers in these units had been declining during the 1990's even as elk hunting opportunities were reduced and harvest pressure on bear and lion populations were increased. Habitat quality is considered to be a primary consideration to the recovery of elk in these areas.

How should IDFG respond to the recommendations from the Elk Collaborative?

**Public Involvement Process:**

IDFG has not obtained any public input on the recommendations from the Elk Collaborative, although the recommendations came from 15 members representing many sectors of the public.

**Justification:**

Senator Crapo has asked IDFG and the USFS to respond to the Elk Collaborative report and report back to him. Public interest in recovering elk in these areas is high.

**Action Requested:**

Commission consensus to approve IDFG staff response to the Elk Collaborative recommendations pertaining to IDFG.

**Staff Recommendations:**

Approve IDFG staff to move ahead in addressing the Elk Collaborative recommendations.

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 18**

**Agenda Item:** White-tailed Deer Plan

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Brad Compton

**Background:**

The current white-tailed deer management plan, adopted in 1998, established management guidelines and objectives for north of the Salmon River. The 1998 plan also indicated that white-tailed deer management would be incidental to mule deer management throughout much of the state. The Department began plan revision efforts in April 2003 to address specific management issues including a statewide approach to white-tailed deer management, depredations, some sportsmen's concern for buck quality, hunter mobility, trespass/access issues, and need for better white-tailed deer data.

The Department conducted a random survey of deer hunters throughout the state to gauge current satisfaction levels with white-tailed deer management. While the survey generally indicated a high level of satisfaction among white-tailed deer hunters, it did identify some areas where management could be improved. Specifically, the need to manage white-tailed deer separately from mule deer and allowing greater hunter mobility were rated by hunters as important. Based on these survey results the Commission adopted 11 broad statewide management goals in January 2004, which guided the revision process.

The white-tailed deer plan revision takes a comprehensive approach at white-tailed deer management, including providing programmatic direction on: 1) recommendations for white-tailed deer habitat, 2) creation of a white-tailed deer tag to replace the Clearwater deer tag, 3) data needs, 4) agricultural and urban deer damage, 5) access, 6) availability of mature bucks, 7) use of motorized vehicles while hunting, 8) supplemental feeding of deer, and 9) disease.

**Policy issues:**

The proposed plan provides programmatic direction to the Department of how white-tailed deer will be managed. The plan recommends creating a white-tailed deer tag to address the desires of some sportsmen for greater choice in where they can hunt while still providing protection against influxes of hunters into the Clearwater region during late-season hunts.

**Public Involvement Process:**

Numerous and extensive public involvement opportunities have been conducted including random surveys, web-based surveys, public meetings, open houses, focus groups, and media releases. Currently, the Department is soliciting input on the revision including the proposal to create a white-tailed deer tag. Results from the random survey, web-based survey, and open houses will be provided during presentation of the agenda item.

**Justification:**

Sportsmen, the Department, and Commission identified the need for revising the white-tailed deer management plan. Specifically, intent of the revision was to recognize white-tailed deer as a unique and important component of Idaho's wildlife resources.

**Action Requested:**

Adopt the proposed White-tailed Deer Management Plan.

**Staff Recommendations:**

The proposed plan has been sent to Commissioners in advance of the meeting. A final plan, incorporating public input, will be provided to the Commission during presentation of the agenda item.

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 19**

**Agenda Item:** Mule Deer Initiative Update

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Brad Compton & Shane King

**Background:**

Mule deer populations in parts of Idaho are not meeting sportsmen's expectations nor Commission objectives. In 2004, the Department launched a Mule Deer Initiative to provide for long-term citizen and agency commitment to mule deer management. Goals of the initiative are: 1) enhance mule deer habitat, 2) increase mule deer populations, and 3) improve hunter satisfaction. The program has 5 components including 1) habitat management, 2) population management, 3) predator management, 4) access management, and 5) public involvement.

In August, the Department hired a Regional Wildlife Biologist to coordinate and implement the initiative in eastern and southcentral Idaho. Since this time the Department has been actively soliciting public support and commitment for the program.

**Policy issues:**

None.

**Public Involvement Process:**

Numerous personal contacts and meetings with stakeholders.

**Justification:**

None. Informational purposes only.

**Action Requested:**

None. Informational purposes only.

**Staff Recommendations:**

None. Informational purposes only.



**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 20**

**Agenda Item:** Disabled Hunter Opportunities

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Steve Barton

**Background:** Idaho Code provides for several licenses and permits for disabled individuals. The statutes have different definitions and requirements for several of the licenses and permits. There is a fair amount of confusion about the requirements and the rationale that behind the statutes that created the licenses and permits. There are always a few questions each year about the requirements to be eligible for these licenses and the process to obtain them. The disabled licenses are growing in sales.

**Policy issues:** a) Should these licenses and permits be dropped or modified.  
b) Coordinate with the US Forest Service to provide increased hunter opportunities on national forests for disabled hunters.

**Public Involvement Process:**

**Justification:**

**Action Requested:**

**Staff Recommendations:**

Review the Disabled licenses and permits with the Governor's Office, Independent Living Council and other interested parties to determine if the requirements should be changed.  
Coordinate with the various national forests in Idaho as they develop their travel plans to include increased hunting opportunities for disabled hunters on national forest lands.

Agenda Item   21  

Proposal:

To hold an Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345(1) (b) and (f) litigation and personnel matters.

**Meeting Date:** November 17-19, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 22**

**Agenda Item:** Strategic Plan

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Tracey Trent

**Background:**

Michele Beucler has summarized information from surveys of Idaho citizens about the opinions and values Idahoans place on fish and wildlife. She will present a different way of looking at the Department's constituents based on their values and attitudes towards fish and wildlife.

At the July meeting the Commission was presented the strategic plan, The Compass, as revised based on public comments. Final action on the Compass was postponed until the November meeting.

**Policy issues:**

NA

**Public Involvement Process:**

The final draft of the Compass was posted on the Department's website in early October and those that commented on the draft Compass were notified. A few comments have been received on the final draft and they will be summarized at the Commission meeting.

**Justification:**

NA

**Action Requested:**

Final approval and adoption of the Compass as the Department's strategic plan is requested.

**Staff Recommendations:**

Approve the Compass.

**Meeting Date:** November 12, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 23**

**Agenda Item:** Trophy Species Status

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Dale Toweill

**Background:**

Trophy species harvest proposals for the coming two years are presented to the Commission for approval in January of each odd-numbered year. Prior to presentation of specific proposals, the Commission is provided an overview of the statewide status of bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and moose.

**Policy issues:**

Sportsmen successful in drawing a permit are allowed to harvest one each Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, California bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and moose in their lifetime. Only two exceptions are currently allowed. Bighorn sheep may be harvested by Special Permit (one each offered by auction and by lottery each year). Hunters who have harvested a moose and who obtain a left-over moose permit are exempt from the once-in-a-lifetime quota.

**Public Involvement Process:**

Successful trophy species hunters must have their animal checked and a Big Game Mortality Report completed within 10 days of harvest. Unsuccessful hunters must return their unused tag. Many are contacted directly by telephone. The Department collects input year-around from individual sportsmen, organizations, and biologists. Harvest proposals are scoped within the Regions prior to presentation to the Commission. That information, plus summaries of data, will be presented in January.

**Justification:**

No action is required. This presentation provides Commissioners background prior to the January Commission meeting at which specific proposals will be presented.

**Action Requested:**

None

**Staff Recommendations:**

None

**Meeting Date:** November 12, 2004

**Agenda Item No. 24**

**Agenda Item:** Hunter Orange

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Roger Fuhrman

**Background:**

Recent accidents involving firearms have increased interest in hunter orange. Research indicates that wearing hunter orange significantly reduces the chance of accidental shootings. 40 states require hunters to wear bright orange while in the field. Idaho strongly encourages wearing hunter orange. Previous efforts to pass mandatory hunter orange legislation have been unsuccessful.

**Policy issues:**

This item is informational only.

**Public Involvement Process:**

This item is informational only.

**Justification:**

This item is informational only.

**Action Requested:**

None. Item is informational only.

**Staff Recommendations:**

None. Item is informational only.

**Meeting Date: November 19, 2004**

**Agenda Item No. 26**

**Agenda Item:** Region 2, Nongame Program

**Approved by:** S. Huffaker

**Prepared by:** Joel Sauder, Nongame Biologist

**Background:**

The purpose of this presentation is to inform the Commission of ongoing nongame activities in the Clearwater Region and to highlight partnerships that have been developed with state, federal, tribal and private agencies who have an interest in nongame. Through communication, coordination and cooperation these partnerships have facilitated nongame work within the region. Particularly successful collaborations include: the Northern Region Landbird Monitoring Project, the Vassar Meadow MAPS station, and International Migratory Bird Day.

**Policy issues:**

None

**Public Involvement Process:**

N/A

**Justification:**

N/A

**Action Requested:**

None

**Staff Recommendations:**

N/A

**Meeting Date: November 19, 2004**

**Agenda Item No. 28**

**Agenda Item: Review of 2004 Federal Columbia  
River Power System draft Biological Opinion**

**Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Prepared by: Sharon W. Kiefer, Anadromous Fishery Manager**

**Background:** The review will update the Commission about the history, structure and issues of the draft, 2004 Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System on the lower Snake and Columbia rivers. The Commission's last briefing on this issue was in 2001 on the previous Biological Opinion, which was issued in 2000 and litigated by various parties. The state of Idaho was party to this litigation, resulting in the draft 2004 Biological Opinion.

**Policy issues:**

None – no decision requested.

**Public Involvement Process:**

None.

**Justification:**

Informational only.

**Action Requested:**

None

**Staff Recommendations:**

Review final Biological Opinion and inform Commission of any substantial changes from the draft.